69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1900 ● Chicago, Illinois 60602-1304 ● (312) 603-8200 Email: environmentalcontrol@cookcountyil.gov ● www.cookcountyil.gov/environment

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Jan Pels
Regional Brownfield Contact
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region V
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Mail Code SE-7J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Pels:

The Cook County Department of Environmental Control (after 12.1.2017 name will change to Department of Environment and Sustainability) along with the Coalition Partners of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights (previously called East Chicago Heights) and Sauk Village, is applying for \$600,000 in Assessment funding to foster livable, vibrant communities that are safe, health and amenity-rich for all residents, regardless of age, race or income level. This project builds on Cook County's existing relationship with the Target Area through the Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor project, in which several County Departments have been working with the Coalition Partner communities to position the area for growth in logistics, prioritize sites and needed public investments, to prepare a strategy for the development of rail service for industry in the corridor.

Once considered the "crossroads of the nation" at the intersection of Dixie Highway and Lincoln Highway (the first transcontinental highway), these three communities were booming industrial suburbs about 20 miles south of Chicago, which Inland Steel, Thrall Car Manufacturing, Stauffer Chemical and Ford Motors called home. By the 1970s factories closed as steel faced foreign competition. Population declined, and large swaths of vacant, blighted land resulted. By 1987, East Chicago Heights was "America's poorest suburb", prompting its name change in search of a better future. In the Target Area communities, poverty ranges from 27.9% to 45.3%, and the minority population ranges from 76.2% to 98.6%. Generally, population has been declining, and poverty and the percent minority growing.

Cook County's south suburbs have the highest concentration of brownfields in the 7 county metro area. Many brownfields have been identified by the Coalition Partners, including a 40 acre former metal factory owned by Chicago Heights, which is littered with 55-gallon drums of unknown origin, a 17 acre vacant industrial site in Ford Heights located along Deer Creek, and a 10 acre site in Sauk Village that has contaminated a nearby lake.

The welfare, environmental and health impacts of brownfields in the Target Area include, among many others, blight and crime fostered by large parcels of vacant land, significant lack of access to green space, active solid waste sites and numerous open dumping incidents (Chicago Heights staff removed over 800 tires from a vacant industrial site), vinyl chloride contamination in Sauk Village's and the former East Chicago Heights' water supply, and higher than average rates of asthma, cancer, low birth weight and overall mortality.

The proposed Coalition project will incorporate sustainable practices, equitable development and EJ approaches. Partnerships have been formed with local job training agencies, religious organizations, local business associations, and government organizations who can leverage significant funding for redevelopment planning, community outreach, green infrastructure, and economic development incentives. T.A.B. (Technical Assistance for Brownfields/Kansas State

University) has worked with us and the Coalition Partners on involving and educating local officials and residents on brownfield programs and opportunities.

The requested budget will cover robust community engagement activities, collecting data and working with the Coalition Partners and local residents for site identification and prioritization, 40 Phase I and 20 Phase II ESA's, and development of Remedial Action Plans for 10 sites.

The Applicant, Cook County Department of Environmental Control, received a FFY2014 Brownfield Coalition Grant for a Target Area of 7 coalition partner communities in the Western suburbs. All grant activities were completed within the 3-year period, with all funds expended. With that grant, 30 sites totaling about 130 acres were assessed. Six sites totaling about 127 acres are in or moving towards redevelopment, and will create at least 200 jobs; the remaining sites are ready to be marketed by the Coalition Partners. Information for the current grant request is below.

Applicant: Cook County Department of Environmental Control

(after 12.1.2017 name changed to Department of Environment and Sustainability)

69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1900

Chicago, IL 60602

Funding Requested:

i) Grant Type: Assessment

ii) Assessment Grant Type: Coalition.iii) Federal Funds Requested: \$600,000

iv) Contamination: (\$458,500 Hazardous Substances, \$141,500 Petroleum)

Location: City of Chicago Heights, Village of Ford Heights, and Village of Sauk Village, IL.

Project Director: Chief Executive:

Kevin Schnoes, Deputy Director Toni Preckwinkle, County Board President

312-603-8214 312-603-2818

<u>Kevin.schnoes@cookcountyil.gov</u>

Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control

Cook County Board President's Office

69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1900 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor

Chicago, IL 60602 Chicago, IL 60602

Population, Cook County (applicant): 5,203,499

Population, Coalition Partners:

Chicago Heights: 30,026 Ford Heights: 2,754 Sauk Village: 10,438

Cook County is not a county experiencing **persistent poverty**. However in the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate, poverty rates in the Coalition Partner communities were 27.9% for Sauk Village, 28.1% for Chicago Heights, and 45.3% for Ford Heights.

Sincerely,

Deborah Stone, Director

Cook County Department of Environmental Control / Environment and Sustainability

Deborah.stone@cookcountyil.gov 312-603-8204

Cover Letter Attachments

- Regional Priorities / Other Factors Checklist
- Letter from state or tribal authority

Regional Priorities Form/Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: <u>Cook County Department of Environmental Control</u>

Regional Priorities Other Factor

If your proposed Brownfields Assessment project will advance the regional priority(ies) identified in SectionI.F., please indicate the regional priority(ies) and the page number(s) for where the information can be found within your15-page narrative. Only address the priority(ies) for the region in which your projectis located. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Regional Priority Title(s): Coordinated Public Funding for Brownfields

Page Number(s): 6, 7, 10, 11

Assessment Other Factors Checklist

Please identify (with an x) which, if any, of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

	Other Factor	Page #
	None of the Other Factors are applicable.	
X	Community population is 10,000 or less.	2
	The jurisdiction is located within, or includes, a county experiencing "persistent	
	poverty" where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past30	
	years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small	
	Area Income and Poverty Estimates.	
	Applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
	Target brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	
X	Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.	8, 9, 10
X	Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project	10, 11
	completion, by identifying in the proposal the amounts and contributors of resources and	
	including documentation that ties directly to the project.	
	Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.	





1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

ALEC MESSINA, DIRECTOR

October 19, 2017

Cook County Department of Environmental Control Attn: Deborah Stone, Director 69 West Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Ms. Stone:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has received your request for a letter of acknowledgement for an upcoming Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant Proposal application to U.S. EPA, in collaboration with the communities of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, and Sauk Village and a Revolving Loan Fund Grant Proposal in collaboration with Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, Sauk Village, Bellwood, Maywood, Franklin Park, and Schiller Park. Cook County is applying for a \$450,000 Assessment Grant for Hazardous Substances, \$150,000 Assessment Grant for Petroleum substances, and \$1,000,000 Revolving Loan Fund Grant from U.S. EPA.

If Cook County identifies properties in the target area(s) potentially contaminated with petroleum, it must seek an eligibility determination from Illinois EPA before conducting site-specific assessments.

Illinois EPA acknowledges Cook County's efforts to obtain federal Brownfields funds for this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (217) 785-7492 or by email at valerie.a.davis@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Davis Programs Advisor Bureau of Land

c: Matt Didier - U.S. EPA Region 5



1. COMMUNITY NEED

1.a. Target Area and Brownfields

1.a.i. Community and Target Area Descriptions

Cook County, Illinois, through its Department of Environmental Control (CCDEC) and three contiguous South Suburban municipalities (Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, and Sauk Village) have formed the South Suburban Cook County Coalition (Coalition). The Coalition is applying for \$600,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Coalition Assessment Grant funds for environmental site assessment activities: \$450,000 for Hazardous Substances and \$150,000 for Petroleum. This funding will enable the Coalition's resource-constrained members – communities that lack the necessary resources, capacity, and funding – to utilize CCDEC's expertise, maximize resources, and benefit from a coordinated brownfields effort. When complete, this brownfield project will foster livable, vibrant communities that are safe, healthy, and amenity-rich for all residents, regardless of age, race, or income level.

Once considered the "Crossroads of the Nation" at the intersection of the Dixie Highway and Lincoln Highway (the first transcontinental highway), the Target Area of Chicago Heights and its neighboring communities of Ford Heights (then called East Chicago Heights) and Sauk Village were booming outer-ring industrial suburbs located 20 miles south of Chicago. In the early 1900s, the area attracted large-scale heavy industrial employers including Inland Steel, Thrall Car Manufacturing Company, the Stauffer Chemical Company, and Ford Motors. During World War II, the area's factories produced steel, chemicals, and other war materials. Vibrant communities with ample jobs, the area was home to a mix of blue-collar workers – Italian, Polish, Slovak, Irish, and African American – and boasted rich retail, arts, and cultural amenities. However, by the 1970s, factories and businesses were closing or moving out of the Target Area on a large scale as the steel industry quickly declined amid increasing foreign competition. The exodus of heavy industry left behind large swaths of vacant, blighted land that are potential brownfield sites. Residents started to leave, and the area experienced significant demographic changes: the percentage of African American and Hispanic minorities rose, and poverty and unemployment increased. A 60-acre public housing complex built in East Chicago Heights in the 1960s further changed the makeup of the area's population and taxed the community's resources. By 1987, East Chicago Heights was declared "America's Poorest Suburb", prompting community leaders to seek a new future and change its name to Ford Heights. Today, the area still boasts rich transportation assets and hosts industrial activity, but serious economic and environmental challenges remain and public perception of the area is poor. The Coalition continues to lose population and has poverty, unemployment, and crime rates greater than its neighbors in Cook County and beyond. Exacerbating these challenges are high levels of air, land, and water pollution – much of it stemming from the area's industrial past and brownfields - leading to serious health issues for residents, including sensitive populations, and hindering redevelopment and productive reuse.

1.a.ii. Demographic Information and Indicators of Need

The Target Area is an economically distressed area with environmental justice issue and growing sensitive populations, including older adults. The table below highlights key data for the Target Area showing the area has greater than average unemployment, poverty, and % minority rates as compared to county, state, and national averages. *Population losses* from 2000 to 2010 were particularly notable in Ford Heights (20.1%) and Chicago Heights (7.6%). As Ford Heights has suffered population loss, the *age of residents has increased*: the percentage of residents over 65

increased from 6.8% of the population in 2000 to 10.8% of the population in 2010 (U.S. Census 2000 and 2010). The *poverty rate has been increasing rapidly* in Chicago Heights (52.8% increase) and Sauk Village (167.4% increase) over the period from 2000 to 2010 (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates). Finally, the area's *minority populations have grown* – Sauk Village experienced a 79% increase from 2000 to 2010 and Chicago Heights a 13% increase over the same period (U.S. Census 2000 and 2010).

		Target Area				
	Ford	Chicago	Sauk	Cook	Illinois	National
	Heights	Heights	Village	County		
Population ¹	2,754	30,026	10,438	5,203,499	12,801,539	323,127,513
Unemployment ²	6.40%	7.30%	6.40%	6.20%	5.00%	4.20%
Poverty Rate ³	45.3%	28.1%	27.9%	17.1%	12.2%	12.7%
% Minority ¹	98.6%	76.6%	76.2%	44.6%	22.8%	38.7%
Median Household Income (\$) ⁴	\$16,849	\$43,102	\$41,885	\$45,922	\$59,412	\$57,617

Data Sources: 1) 2016 U.S. Census; 2) <u>www.ides.illinois.gov</u>; as of September 2017; 3)2016 U.S. Census (national); U.S. Census rate 3-year average 2014-16 (state); 2017 IDES' LAUS Report (Cook County; 4) 2016 ACS estimates (national), U.S. Census 3-year average, 2014-16 (state), ACS 5-year estimates (Target Area villages).

1.a.iii. Description of the Brownfields

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties, including Cook County. CMAP's Brownfields Redevelopment Strategy identified Cook County's southern suburbs as having the *highest concentration of brownfield sites* outside of the City of Chicago, mirroring the concentration of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Site Remediation Program (SRP) sites. There are approximately 1,050 acres of vacant land in the Target Area. Through their own local redevelopment plans, the Coalition partners have identified over 200 acres as brownfield sites contaminated heavy metals, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and asbestos that are in need of detailed assessment including:

- 20-acre former industrial site at 26th & State St owned by Chicago Heights. To the east and west of this site are residential neighborhoods, and Deer Creek & Thorn Creek are also in close proximity. There is significant opportunity for redevelopment of the site as the City owns an adjacent 20-acre site that could be combined to make a marketable 40-acre site.
- 20-acre site in the city center with a former hospital facility. The site is adjacent to an elementary school, public library, residential neighborhoods, and park
- 40-acre former metal factory on Lincoln Highway owned by Chicago Heights. In addition to contaminants from the former operations, the site is littered with 55-gal drums of unknown materials. The site is rail served and has attracted interest from developers
- 15-acre former aluminum processing plant on State St. owned by Chicago Heights, also very desirable to developers as it is rail served and located on a state highway
- 17-acre vacant industrial site at 17th St. & Cottage Grove Ave. in Ford Heights located along Deer Creek
- 7-acre illegal dump site in Ford Heights at the intersection of Torrence Ave. & Lincoln Hwy; site has a history of fly dumping activity and is adjacent to a mobile home community

• 10-acre brownfield site in Sauk Village that has contaminated nearby lake; the site is located on Lincoln Hwy, the main thoroughfare through the village and home to a number of retail establishments and restaurants.

1.b. Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Impacts 1.b.i. Welfare Impacts

The Coalition communities suffer from large parcels of vacant land, causing blight, and resulting crime. The percentage of vacant land in Ford Heights is 22.3%, 9.2% in Chicago Heights, and 7.4% in Sauk Village, as compared to 3.9% in Cook County (CMAP Parcel-Based Land Use Inventory, 2013). Residential *foreclosure levels* are higher than the regional average in Sauk Village and Chicago Heights data indicates there are 2.3 and 1.5 filings per 100 residential parcels, respectively, as compared to 0.8 in the region (Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University, 2016). Blight stemming from vacant land has led to dumping, arson, theft, and violent crime. Safety concerns in the Coalition communities are significant, especially in Ford Heights. The overall *crime index* is 4,004 in Ford Heights, 599 in Sauk Village, and 333 in Chicago Heights, as compared to a U.S. average of just 233 (City Data Crime Index, 2015). The violent crime index in Ford Heights was 63 times the national average for the most recent available data in 2006. Social vulnerability, as measured by an index that ranks each Census tract on 14 social aspects is at its highest levels in all of the Coalition communities and reflects a low capacity to prepare for and deal with external stressors and a vulnerability to threats to health and well-being (Health Impact Collaborative of Cook County, 2016). A CMAP analysis of American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2010-14 found that 100% of land in Ford Heights and Sauk Village and 74% of land in Chicago Heights is in economically disconnected areas. Despite the prevalence of vacant land parcels, the area suffers from a significant lack of access to green space. Open space acreage per 1,000 residents, which averages 18.8 acres in Cook County and 39.8 acres in the region, is just 0.7 in Ford Heights, 8.8 in Sauk Village, and 15.6 in Chicago Heights (CMAP calculations of 2013 Land Use Inventory).

1.b.ii. Cumulative Environmental Issues

With its history of heavy industry and with ongoing industrial activity, the Coalition Target Area has environmental issues relating to air, land, and water. This raises serious Environmental Justice (EJ) issues for the large numbers of minority and low-income residents that call the area home, as detailed in Section 1.a.ii. Several issues, such as air pollution from fine particulate matter (PM) and non-point pollution from storm water runoff, are worsened by brownfields. Air: Cook County is a designated as a Clean Air Act (CAA) non-attainment area for Ozone and PM, both of which have serious health consequences for its residents. The County had 7 air pollution action days in 2016 and 2to date in 2017 (AirNow.gov). Cook County also has the highest levels of ammonia, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and PM of all the surrounding counties, and the south suburbs have high coal dust and metals concentrations. The USEPA Region 5 Index for PM ranks the Coalition communities in the 84th percentile. Sources of air pollution include: large rail yards located within Chicago Heights, traffic from three interstate expressways (I-80, I-57, I-294) and three state highways (IL-30, IL-394, and IL-1), as well past emissions from coal-fired electric power plants and steel mills. These sources significantly increase the risk for cancer, asthma, and other respiratory issues. Land: IEPA documents five former landfills in the Coalition area. These landfills were known to accept a variety of industrial pollutants. A large number of active solid waste transfer stations in the area and illegal dumping incidents potentially contribute to groundwater as well as air pollution.

Abandoned sites in the Coalition area are a *haven for illegal dumping* of waste and tires. Hazardous materials are also widely used in the area. In 2016, 42 facilities in the Coalition area filed Tier II hazardous material reports. Water: In 2009, vinyl chloride contamination was detected in Sauk Village's water supply wells. The source of contamination was never confirmed. Sauk Village initially provided residents bottled water and is currently operating an air-stripping treatment system on two wells and discontinued use of a third well. Water quality issues can be also traced to former landfills in the area; a former landfill in Chicago Heights was implicated in the late 1980s for contamination from vinyl chloride of drinking water in neighboring South Chicago Heights. As late as 2005, groundwater and surface water near this landfill showed levels of vinyl chloride greater than State Class I groundwater standards. Heavy metals affect 69% of watersheds in Cook County. Water quality issues can be traced, in part, to legacy contamination from brownfield sites. Thorn Creek bisects Chicago Heights and Deer Creek runs through Ford Heights and Sauk Village. The Target Area is in the top 25% in the number of *flood insurance and disaster relief claims* filed from 2007 to 2011 (CNT 'The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding', 2014). The Calumet River and its streams, including Thorn Creek, are *rated fair or poor* (IEPA Water Quality Report). USEPA Region 5 Index for Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration per meter distance) ranks Ford Heights in the 99th percentile and Sauk Village in the 95th percentile.

1.b.iii. Cumulative Public Health Impacts

Due to limited resources, the Coalition members have not conducted detailed environmental assessment and sampling at the brownfield sites in their communities. However, based on the past use and industries formerly located on many of the brownfield sites, which range from chemical manufacturers and metal processors to gas stations and hospitals, suspected contaminants include heavy metals, PAHs, and VOCs. Adverse health effects related to exposure to chemicals potentially present in the Coalition brownfield sites include: central nervous system damage, delays in physical development, lower IQ level, shortened attention spans, behavioral problems, asthma, and cancer. These adverse health problems disproportionately affect sensitive populations including children, the elderly, and minorities, and also contribute to an increase in rates of asthma and low birth weight. As noted in Section 1.a.ii, the percentage of residents over 65 and minority population in the Coalition area has increased since 2000. Broadly, health challenges are reflected in high mortality rates from all causes in the Coalition communities, ranging from 878 to 1,100 per 100,000 people as compared to 746 per 100,000 and 749 per 100,000 in Illinois and the U.S., respectively. Specific health issues are as follows. Lead Levels: USEPA's EJ Index for Lead Paint Indicator puts Chicago Heights in the 90th percentile and Sauk Village in the 84th percentile in the U.S. More than 78% of housing in suburban Cook County was built prior to 1978 (Illinois Lead Program 2015 Annual Surveillance Report). Brownfields in Cook County have a legacy of early industrialization and soils in these areas are commonly contaminated with lead. Lead interferes with a variety of body processes and is toxic to many organs and tissues including the heart, bones, intestines, kidneys, and reproductive and nervous systems, particularly in children. Asthma/Respiratory Issues: The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) found in 2005 that air toxins in Cook County dramatically increase chronic health problems that include lung cancer, asthma, heart attacks, premature birth, and death. Respiratory illnesses like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) have been linked to poor air quality. The average lifetime risk of cancer for a resident of Cook County is 1 in 1,600, which puts the risk at 600 times greater than USEPA's acceptable cancer level. Cancer rates in the Coalition area ranged from 190 to 210 per 100,000

people, as compared to 179 in Illinois and 172 in the U.S. According to the IDPH, the most common form of cancer, from 2002 through 2006, was Lung & Bronchus cancer, and Lung cancer rates in Sauk Village are nearly double that of other communities in Cook County. Further, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services document "Asthma Care Quality Improvement, A Resource Guide for State Action," Cook County has one of the worst asthma mortality rates in the United States. Low Birth Weight/Nutrition Issues: Many coalition communities have high minority populations that disproportionately experience low birth weight (LBW). Because of the larger number of vacant and potential brownfield sites in this area, commercial retail business (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) necessary to support the residential community are scarce. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has identified several census tracts in the Coalition communities as "food deserts" (17031829700, 17031829702, 17031828504). In addition to low income and limited access, the USDA notes that two of these tracts also have low vehicle access. The average distance to fresh produce is 5 to 7 miles for all Coalition communities, where living 'close' to a grocery store in a non-rural setting is defined as less than one mile (USDA Economic Research Service). Food deserts have resulted in detrimental impact on health outcomes, such as LBW. This is evident in LBW for the Coalition communities ranging from 8.0% to 12.4%, as compared to 6.3% in Illinois and the U.S. (IDPH Natality Files, 2008 – 2012).

1.c. Financial Need

1.c.i. Economic Conditions

Cook County is currently facing a \$200 million budget deficit for FY18 and communities in south Cook County have at least 25% less than the regional median in terms of municipal sales and property tax base per capita (CMAP, U.S. Census 2010). Local conditions in the Coalition area present a challenge finding funding needed for brownfield-related activities. A relatively small population and low municipal revenues compound funding challenges.

Since 2006, Chicago Heights and Sauk Village have *experienced decreases in retail sales tax* revenues of 5.3% and 8.4%, respectively (IL Department of Revenue Tax Statistics). Chicago Heights generates significantly less revenue from retail sales on a per capita basis compared to Cook County and the region. In 2012, Chicago Heights generated \$4,647 per capita - less than half of the County and regional per capita rate (Chicago Heights 2015 Comprehensive Plan). *Population loss* from 2000 to 2010 was 7.6% in Chicago Heights and 20.1% in Ford Heights, with Ford Heights seeing a 48% population decline over the longer term from 1980 to 2010.

Private sector job losses in Chicago Heights totaled almost 2,000 from 2002 - 2011, representing 12.8% of the City's base. This compares to a 1.5% increase in the Chicago region over the same period. Recent examples of *plant closures leading to job losses* and loss of property tax revenue in the Coalition area include: Ultra Foods (closed in 2017, 123 jobs lost), Aryzta Bakery (closed in 2015, 40 jobs lost), Esmark Steel Services (closed in 2013, 31 jobs lost).

1.c.ii. Economic Effects of Brownfields

Brownfield sites inhibit development in the Target area, leading to factors such as a reduced tax base and lost business and job opportunities; blight and costs related to vacant property management; community apathy and disinvestment; and a concentration of low-income households. Most brownfields sites in the Target Area currently do not produce tax revenues. Contamination, perceived or actual, is a deterrent to developers and businesses, who are unsure

of the costs to remediate and redevelop property. These lost business opportunities equal lost jobs. A 2005 Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs study found that brownfield *redevelopment projects created on average 66 full-time equivalent jobs*, jobs that are created in areas like the Coalition area where they are most needed.

Vacant brownfield properties strain municipal resources; blight leads to increases in crime such as arson, theft, and dumping, and local governments are asked to spend precious resources policing, cleaning up, and maintaining vacant properties. During a one-week period in 2017 Chicago Heights *staff removed over 800 tires illegally dumped* at a vacant industrial site. Brownfields and their associated environmental issues, such as fly dumping, contaminated groundwater, soil gas mitigation, and blowing of contaminated dust, also impact neighboring small businesses and the community as a whole, leading to apathy and disinvestment. *Population declines in the Coalition area* (discussed in 1.c.i.) are reflective of demographic changes wherein whites and wealthier, white collar workers have left communities. These issues cause further flight as declining property value and overall appearance of the area continues to deteriorate. The loss of revenues from declining property values and from potentially contaminated sites is putting further strain on these communities. Lacking the financial resources and staff capacity, the Coalition communities are in significant need of assistance to support economic recovery. USEPA funds are a critical component for Cook County and its partners to implement its regional redevelopment plans.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND FEASIBILITY OF SUCCESS

2.a. Project Description, Redevelopment Strategy, and Timing and Implementation 2.a.i. Project Description and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The objective of this project is to address brownfields in the Coalition Target area to attract employers to redevelop the sites, with an emphasis on industrial infill redevelopment that leverages existing transportation and logistics assets, generate living wage jobs, create new public open green space, and eliminate food deserts. When complete, the vision is to foster livable, vibrant communities that are safe, healthy, and amenity-rich for all residents, regardless of age, race, or income level. This is in alignment with the *USEPA's FY2018-2022 Strategic Plan* to make brownfield sites ready for active use (RAU), advancing environmental and human health protection while stimulating economic development and job creation.

This project is in alignment with regional, county, sub-regional, and local development plans and will be *used to fill gaps* in these plans where the uncertainty regarding brownfield sites inhibit their development and connection to assets in the area. *Regional land use plans* includes CMAP comprehensive "GO TO 2040" plan that explicitly identifies brownfields redevelopment as a strategy for regional growth. "ON TO 2050", CMAP's followup regional plan, suggests a focus on inclusive growth and promoting reinvestment in disinvested areas. *Cook County land use plans* in the Coalition area include the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan, which includes the County Freight Plan, and the Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor Study, that focuses on the three communities in the Coalition area and the opportunities for enhancing and developing its rail and road transit assets. The County also launched the Industrial Growth Zone (IGZ) initiative to increase transparency about a site's environmental conditions, determine preparations needed to make the site "shovel-ready," and reduce the amount of uncertainty about the site to better inform prospective developers. Several *sub-regional redevelopment plans* focus on Cook County's southern suburbs. The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) has

issued two plans: 'Promoting Cargo-Oriented Development in Chicago South Suburban Communities' (2008), which identifies Chicago Heights specifically as the south suburbs' most prime location for industrial infill and redevelopment, and 'Green Transit, Intermodal, Manufacturing, Environment Zone' (2010), which advocates for sustainable redevelopment in transit-oriented development (TOD), cargo-oriented development (COD), and green manufacturing. Municipal land use and redevelopment plans in the Coalition communities are also in alignment with this project. Chicago Heights' 2015 Comprehensive Plan recommends focusing efforts on the redevelopment of underutilized and vacant properties, and the City has moved forward to re-zone parts of the city center from commercial to mixed-use development to expand development opportunities. The Chicago Heights Park District Master Plan (2013) recommends the addition of new public open space throughout the community; and the Chicago Heights Downtown TOD Study (2009) promotes mixed-use development and light industrial near the city center. In 2018, Sauk Village will receive Local Technical Assistance grant from CMAP to enhance its comprehensive plan with a focus on redevelopment of vacant land. Ford Heights lacks the resources to develop a comprehensive plan and is currently receiving planning assistance from Cook County through its land-use plans, such as the Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor study discussed previously.

The proposed Coalition project will *incorporate sustainable practices, equitable development,* and EJ approaches. High Bridge, a landscape design, installation, and maintenance firm in the south suburbs, will partner with the Coalition to assist on natural restoration and green infrastructure. High Bridge trains and hires local residents, offering critical work experience and job skills training. Equitable development that improves resident access to green space and parks, transportation, and healthy and affordable food will be emphasized, and EJ approaches will ensure that outcomes benefit low-income and minority populations. The Coalition will work with OAI, Inc., a south suburbs-based workforce development organization, to improve employment opportunities, particularly for low-income and unemployed minority persons, and train and place residents in new jobs created in the redevelopment and reuse of brownfield sites.

2.a.ii. Redevelopment Strategy

CCDEC has formed the Coalition to represent the members and obtain USEPA brownfield funding to assess brownfield sites and examine their redevelopment potential. Four specific tasks associated with the redevelopment strategy for the project include: programmatic and outreach efforts, inventory/prioritization, Phase I and II environmental site assessments (ESA), and remediation planning. The redevelopment strategy of brownfield sites will take advantage of the existing infrastructure and transportation-rich rail and road assets in the Target Area. Existing infrastructure including water, sewer, and electrical will be utilized to minimize additional investments required to make brownfield sites ready for active use.

2.a.iii. Timing and Implementation

CCDEC has previously managed a Coalition Assessment grant from the USEPA from FFY14-17 and will be the lead for the Coalition on all key activities.

(a) Contractor Procurement: CCDEC has a consultant under contract to conduct Phase I/II ESAs and related activities. The consultant was selected utilizing Cook County Department of Procurement Services fair and open competitive selection procedures that meet federal procurement requirements.

- (b) Site Identification & Inventory Process: CCDEC has collaborated previously with municipalities in the south suburbs on sites with environmental issues and is well aware of brownfield issues in these areas and the challenges faced in returning brownfield sites to active use. Coalition members have already initiated site-selection activities as part of their local redevelopment plans including purchasing property or identifying owners of targeted parcels for access agreements. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be signed by all the Coalition partners that will discuss each member's role, the distribution of grant funds, and methods for conducting the assessment activities under the grant. The MOA will also document the site selection process. Sites will be selected in consultation with the Coalition members, the public in the Coalition communities, and by analyzing data already gathered through existing planning activities, such as the Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor study. Though CCDEC has already met with the Coalition members to discuss potential sites, CCDEC will host three planning meetings with Coalition members to achieve the following: 1) educate the public on brownfield sites and their reuse opportunities; 2) discuss available site-specific information currently available for sites. Upon review of data, sites will be recommended for Phase I ESAs. It is estimated that 40 Phase I ESAs will be conducted throughout the project. Based upon information gathered during the Phase I ESAs, approximately 20 sites will be selected for Phase II ESAs; and 5 sites will subsequently be selected for remedial action plans (RAP) to position sites for cleanup. CCDEC will convene quarterly meetings of the Coalition members and biannual public to discuss site progress and additional site selection, as needed.
- **(c) Obtaining & Securing Site Access:** Coalition members have already initiated site-selection activities as part of their local redevelopment plans, including purchasing property or identifying owners of targeted parcels for access agreements. The Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) has been acquiring a portfolio of dilapidated properties in south Cook County, including the villages participating as Coalition members. The Coalition will take advantage of sites already acquired and their readily available access as part of the site selection process. For sites that are privately held, CCDEC will utilize an access agreement template developed for the previous Coalition Assessment grant it received.

2.b.i. Task Descriptions

The Coalition requests \$600,000 (\$458,500 hazardous substances; \$141,500 petroleum) of USEPA brownfields funds to conduct a comprehensive outreach program, update and maintain the inventory of prioritized sites, develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), conduct 40 Phase I ESAs, 20 Phase II ESAs, and develop 5 remediation/reuse plans. **Over 84% of the funds are committed to assessment activities** as outlined in the budget, Section 2.b.ii.

Task 1: Programmatic Activities and Community Engagement

CCDEC will conduct community engagement sessions to inform participants about the brownfield program and the goals of program. The \$20,000 budget (\$15,000 hazardous/\$5,000 petroleum) includes travel (\$3,000) and contractual (\$17,000) costs

- Personnel \$0. CCDEC will:
 - *Leverage county funding* for existing staff to conduct Project Management activities. Estimated leveraging is \$5,000 (100 hours at \$50/hr).
 - Administer cooperative agreement, manage consultant, track grant outputs/outcomes
 - Participate in brownfields workshops and conferences
 - Provide coordination and support for 3 site selection meetings with Coalition members and the public; 12 quarterly update meetings with Coalition members and

partners; 6 biannual public meetings; draft media releases and FAQ sheets; prepare presentations for outreach; and coordinate in-kind services offered for this project

- Travel \$3,000 (\$2,000 hazardous/\$1,000 petroleum) attend EPA Brownfield conference
- Contractual \$17,000 (\$13,000 hazardous; \$4,000 petroleum) Consultant to assist CCDEC with meetings and preparation of information for public dissemination.

Task 2: Inventory and Prioritization

The \$10,000 budget (\$8,000 hazardous; \$2,000 petroleum) includes contains contractual costs to assist with collecting data for the site selection process.

- Personnel \$0; CCDEC will *leverage county funding* for existing staff to maintain the site inventory database and manage sites in the Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database. Estimated leveraging is \$3,750 (75 hrs @ \$50/hr).
- Contractual \$10,000 (\$8,000 hazardous; \$2,000 petroleum) Consultant to assist CCDEC with data collection.

Task 3: Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA)

The \$505,000 budget (\$390,000 hazardous; \$115,000 petroleum) includes costs to conduct 40 Phase I ESAs in compliance with All Appropriate Inquiry and ASTM E 1527-05 standard practice for Environmental Site Assessments; and 20 Phase II ESAs.

- Personnel \$0; CCDEC will *leverage county funding* for existing staff to review and approve Phase I/II ESA documents and maintain them in the county's document control system. Estimated leveraging is \$10,000 (200 hours @ \$50/hr).
- Contractual \$505,000 (\$390,000 hazardous; \$115,000 petroleum)
 - Consultant to conduct 40 Phase I ESAs at an average cost of \$3,000 each
 - 30 hazardous \$90,000; 10 petroleum \$30,000 petroleum
 - Consultant to conduct 20 Phase II ESAs (\$300,000 hazardous, \$85,000 petroleum)
 - 15 hazardous @ \$20,000 each (average) = \$300,000; 5 petroleum @ \$17,000 each (average) = \$85,000

Task 4 – Remediation and Redevelopment Planning

Data from Phase I and II ESAs will be used to develop RAPs for sites. Sites selected for RAPs will be enrolled by CCDEC in the IEPA Voluntary SRP or Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program. CCDEC anticipates implementing green cleanup activities using strategies and technologies described in sources including IEPA's green cleanup matrix, USEPA's Green Remediation Focus website and Green Demolition Toolkit, and the ASTM Standard Guide for Greener Cleanups. The \$75,000 budget (\$50,000 hazardous; \$15,000 petroleum) includes:

- Personnel \$0; CCDEC will *leverage county funding* for existing staff to meet with state agencies, property owners, community stakeholders and coalition members, and consultants to develop RAPs and analysis of cleanup alternatives. Estimated leveraging is \$10,000 (200 hours @ \$50/hr).
- Contractual \$65,000 (\$45,500 hazardous; \$19,500 petroleum)
 - Develop RAPs for 10 sites, at an average cost of \$6,500 each
 - Incorporate CCDEC's Demolition Debris Diversion (3D) Ordinance, which requires deconstruction and material recycling in remediation plans as needed.

2.b.ii. Budget Table

		Project Tasks	s (\$)		
Budget	Task 1:	Task 2:	Task 3:	Task 4:	Total
Category	Programmatic;	Inventory,	Phase I/II	Remediation	
	Comm Engagement	Prioritization	ESA	Planning	
	H	azardous Budg	et		
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$13,000	\$8,000	\$390,000	\$45,500	\$456,500
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Hazardous	\$15,000	\$8,000	\$390,000	\$45,500	\$458,500
	Pe	etroleum Budge	et		
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$115,000	\$19,500	\$140,500
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Petroleum	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$115,000	\$19,500	\$141,500
	TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST \$600,000				

2.c. Ability to Leverage

The Coalition Assessment *grant will be used to address gaps* in existing development plans and leverage the resources of those plans. CCDEC and the Coalition partners will leverage a variety of resources to ensure the success of the project, including in-kind and direct services. In accordance with the *USEPA Region 5 priority of Coordinated Public Funding for Brownfields*, grant funds will be used to leverage other federal and local funding, including:

Source	Purpose/Role	Amount	Status	
CCDEC In- kind: Inventory and Prioritization, Phase		\$28,750	Secured	
	and RAP coordination (see Section 2.b.i);			
	Direct funding: Phase I/II activities from County	\$150,000	Secured	
	Solid Waste Fund - \$50,000 annually			
Cook County	Redevelopment planning, tax incentive and grant			
Department of opportunities, including:				
Planning &	ning & - Community Development Block Grant		Potential	
Development	- BUILT in Cook low interest loans		Source	
_	- Class 6b, 7, & 8 Tax Incentives	50%		
	 Cook County Private Activity Bonds 	\$10M		
Forest	t In-kind: Planning, community outreach, land		Secured	
Preserves of	acquisition			
Cook County				

KSU TAB	In-kind: Workshops, technical assistance	\$15,000	Secured
MWRDGC	In-kind: Stormwater management, planning, green	\$4,230	Secured
	infrastructure, public outreach/participation		

Documentation that substantiates the secured commitments of leverage is attached.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

3.a. Engaging the Community

3.a.i. Community Involvement Plan

CCDEC is committed to meaningful and sustained community involvement to ensure the project is successful. This is especially critical in the Coalition communities where minority and low-income populations may not previously have been involved in brownfield projects in their respective community and/or may perceive they do not have a voice. CCDEC has met with Coalition members and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) several times in 2017. SSMMA is the local council of government (COG) that represents municipalities in the south suburbs on issues ranging from planning and infrastructure to economic development. CCDEC hosted a brownfields workshop at SSMMA on 11/2/17 with the Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB) program. This educational workshop included representatives from USEPA, IEPA, and local government agencies presenting a discussion of the history of industrialization and how it led to brownfields, a brief overview of the assessment, remediation, and cleanup processes, and examples of brownfields that have been successfully redeveloped. The workshop was designed to build community capacity to identify possible brownfield opportunities and resources.

Cook County will issue public notices and seek public participation by:

- Meetings three site selection meetings with Coalition members and the public; six biannual public meetings to inform the public of the project status and receive input
- Press releases and FAQ sheets
- Posts to Cook County's website and blog and distribution through County's social media.
- Articles in CCDEC's quarterly e-newsletter, which goes to approximately 4,000 constituents, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, interested individuals, etc.
- Coalition members will post information for their residents on their websites.
- Several Partner organizations, including CMAP and the Cook County Dept. of Public Health will post information on their websites or in their newsletters.
- Collaboration with local organizations, such as municipal chambers of commerce and community groups

3.a.ii. Communicating Progress

CCDEC will build off successful outreach strategies employed in its prior Assessment grant in West Suburban Cook County: enlisting local civic groups to distribute meeting notices to their local members; presenting at local municipal meetings including monthly city council hearings; hosting a local event such as a picnic to 'meet residents where they are at'; developing custom outreach strategies for specific local stakeholder groups; and coordinating with the local chambers of commerce to host meetings for businesses looking to expand in their area.

3.b. Partnerships with Government Agencies

3.b.i. Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority

CCDEC has a strong relationship with IEPA. Under the previous Assessment grant, IEPA staff conducted property eligibility reviews and provided valued input on grant activities. IEPA also presented at local brownfield workshops hosted by CCDEC, with the most recent workshop held on 11/2/17. CCDEC will enroll brownfield sites in IEPA's SRP or LUST program as necessary to obtain a No Further Remediation (NFR) letter for each respective site. IEPA is the agency that oversees brownfields in the state and will be responsible for reviewing all documents submitted and providing the NFR letter. IEPA will also continue to be responsible for reviewing/approving petroleum site eligibility determinations submitted prior to expending any grant funds.

3.b.ii. Other Governmental Partnerships

Other federal, state, and local governments to be partnered with as part of the grant include:

Organization	Brownfields Initiative Role
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	CCDEC will continue to work with staff from
	USEPA's brownfield program on assessment,
	green demolition, and remediation.
Cook County Department of Planning &	Redevelopment planning; tax incentive and
Development (CCDPD)	grant opportunities, including Community
	Development Block Grant (CDBG) and
	Neighborhood Stabilization Projects (NSP)
Cook County Department of Transportation	Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor study &
& Highways (CCDOTH)	County-wide Freight Plan to foster
	redevelopment in the Coalition area.
Cook County Department of Public Health	Provide public health data, community
(CCDPH)	outreach, and share community health
	knowledge and expertise.
Cook County Forest Preserve District	Site planning, community outreach, and land
(CCFPD)	acquisition.
Cook County Land Bank Authority	Site inventory, planning
(CCLBA)	
Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership:	Administer Federal Workforce Investment
	Agency funds, job training and trainee
	recruitment
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Planning assistance through Local Technical
(CMAP)	Assistance grants
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of	Site planning and selection, redevelopment
Greater Chicago (MWRDGC)	options employing green initiatives, and
Caral Calanda Managara I Managara	public outreach and support.
South Suburban Mayors and Managers	Provide site-specific data, participate in site
Association (SSMMA)	planning, assist with community outreach, and
The same Character Desire Consider to District	host community meetings.
Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District	Planning for contaminant removal

3.c. Partnerships with Community Organizations

3.c.i. Community Organization Descriptions and Roles

The following community organizations will be involved in the grant:

Organization	Brownfields Initiative Role

Southland Human Services	Public outreach, distribution of literature/information,
Leadership Council	speaking at meetings
Opportunity, Advancement,	Job training for assessment, remediation and redevelopment;
and Innovation, Inc. (OAI)	community outreach; provide recruitment, screening, and
	placement services
High Bridge	Green infrastructure planning/redevelopment, workforce
	hiring
Center for Neighborhood	Community outreach, TOD and rail expertise for
Technology (CNT)	redevelopment opportunities.
Calumet Collaborative	Brownfield Working Group, community outreach
Chicago Southland Convention	Community outreach, meeting space, redevelopment
& Visitors Bureau	guidance
Faith in Place	Community outreach, meeting support/logistics
Prairie State College	Meeting space, community outreach, job training

3.c.ii. Letters of Commitment

Letters of commitment from each of the community organizations listed above are attached.

3.d. Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs

CCDEC and the Coalition members will partner with OAI, Inc., a nonprofit training and education agency headquartered in Chicago. OAI has an office in the south suburbs and will provide job training for assessment and redevelopment, assist with community outreach, provide recruitment, screening, and placement services, and make connections to other training providers. *OAI is the recipient of a 2017 USEPA Job Training Grant* to train 45 students and to place 40 graduates in environmental jobs. CCDEC is a partner and is committed to working with OAI to ensure ex-offenders, minorities, and veterans living in renewal communities can obtain employment. OAI is a delegate agency of the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. CCDEC and Coalition partners will work directly with the Partnership to obtain job training and trainee recruitment and support the workforce needs of businesses attracted to sites.

4. PROJECT BENEFITS

4.a. Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Benefits

The revitalization of brownfield sites in the Coalition area will help transform these challenged communities by improving livability, addressing key environmental issues, and improving health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable minority and low-income populations. Welfare benefits include the redevelopment of vacant land, which will reduce blight and crime and related issues such as illegal dumping; the creation of new green space and access to parks; and improvements to transit assets. With the assessment of sites that have been ongoing sources of dangerous pollutants including heavy metals, PAHs, VOCs, Environmental benefits include reduced air pollution, as sources of particulate matter, coal dust, and metals are identified and removed; cleaner land and improved water quality in nearby Deer Creek and Thorn Creek, tributaries to the Little Calumet River; and a reduction in flooding, as green stormwater infrastructure is incorporated in redevelopment plans. Public health benefits include lower blood lead levels and incidence of asthma and lung cancer as harmful contaminants are removed from the air, soil, and water; and an improvement in infant low birth weight and nutrition issues as new grocery stores locate within former food deserts. When complete, the vision of this brownfields project is to

foster livable, vibrant communities that are safe, healthy, and amenity-rich for all residents, regardless of age, race, or income level.

4.b. Economic and Community Benefits

The economic challenges faced by communities in the Coalition area can be addressed in part by USEPA funding to assess brownfield sites, spurring the cleanup and redevelopment process for vacant and underutilized land and stimulating economic growth. Redevelopment will create jobs, both in the assessment and cleanup processes and in the hiring needs of new companies. An emphasis will be placed on creating living-wage jobs in the industrial sector. The partnerships with workforce agencies described in 3.d. will bring job training and placement for local and underserved trainees. CCDEC will work with its contractors to make links to appropriate job training and placement partners such as OAI. As the number of vacant sites decreases, the financial burden on Coalition communities in policing and maintaining sites will diminish. With new businesses and a more livable and healthy environment, Coalition communities will generate higher sales and property taxes and reverse population trends. Communities will be better equipped to market themselves as places to live, work, and play. These outcomes will be tracked, as discuss below in Section 5.c.

5. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

5.a. Audit Findings

CCDEC received a Coalition assessment grant in FFY2014 with no adverse audit findings.

5.b. Programmatic Capacity

CCDEC's previous Coalition Assessment grant was completed within the 3-year period of the grant. CCDEC completed all the technical requirements of the grant and is in the process of submitting final administrative and financial reports. CCDEC accessed multiple County resources to meet the goals of the grant, such as: an existing term agreement to access environmental consultants, experienced planning staff within the Department of Planning & Development, and contract/grant specialists in the Department of Budget and Management Services. CCDEC's grant team will utilize these highly-qualified staff and resources including:

Kevin Schnoes, Deputy Director, will be the grant manager. He managed CCDEC's previous brownfield Coalition Assessment grant and has over 26 years of experience in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. He has worked extensively guiding sites through IEPA's SRP and LUST programs. Prior to CCDEC, he managed the Permitting & Enforcement program at the City of Chicago responsible for the cleanup of numerous sites. This involved close coordination with IEPA and USEPA emergency response programs. Mr. Schnoes also worked as a contractor to the USEPA investigating CERCLA and RCRA sites. He has a B.S. in Geology, an M.S. in Environmental Management, and is a Licensed Professional Geologist in Illinois.

Chris Antonopoulos, Manager of Engineering Services, will manage field oversight of investigations and review Phase I/II ESA and RAP reports. He has 18 years of experience in environmental investigations/remediation and has a B.S. in Biology.

Chris Lipman, Director of Financial Control, will have responsibility for purchasing, financial tracking, and expenditure reporting. He has 17 years of experience in government and private business administration and has an MBA and B.S. in History.

5.c. Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes

CCDEC will track the Coalition's work plan and report to the Coalition partners on a quarterly basis. CCDEC will update the ACRES database with site information and submit quarterly/final reports to USEPA. Tracking and reporting will include the following outputs and outcomes:

Outputs	Outcomes
# of public meetings	# of TOD and COD developments
# Coalition meetings	# of groceries developed in food deserts
# of Brownfield sites identified	# of people with reduced exposure to contaminants
# of Phase I ESAs completed	# of jobs created/retained
# of Phase II ESAs completed	# of cleanups completed
# of acres assessed	# of acres available for redevelopment or green space
Acreage made ready for reuse	Increase in Assessed Value in Coalition communities
# green remediation options identified	# of training opportunities for green remediation jobs

5.d. Past Performance and Accomplishments

5.d.i. Currently or Has Ever Received an EPA Brownfields Grant

CCDEC was the recipient of a FY2014 Brownfield Coalition Assessment grant for \$600,000. CCDEC led a coalition of seven municipal partners from Cook County's Western Suburbs – Bellwood, Forest Park, Franklin Park, Melrose Park, Maywood, Northlake, and Schiller Park.

5.d.i.1. Accomplishments

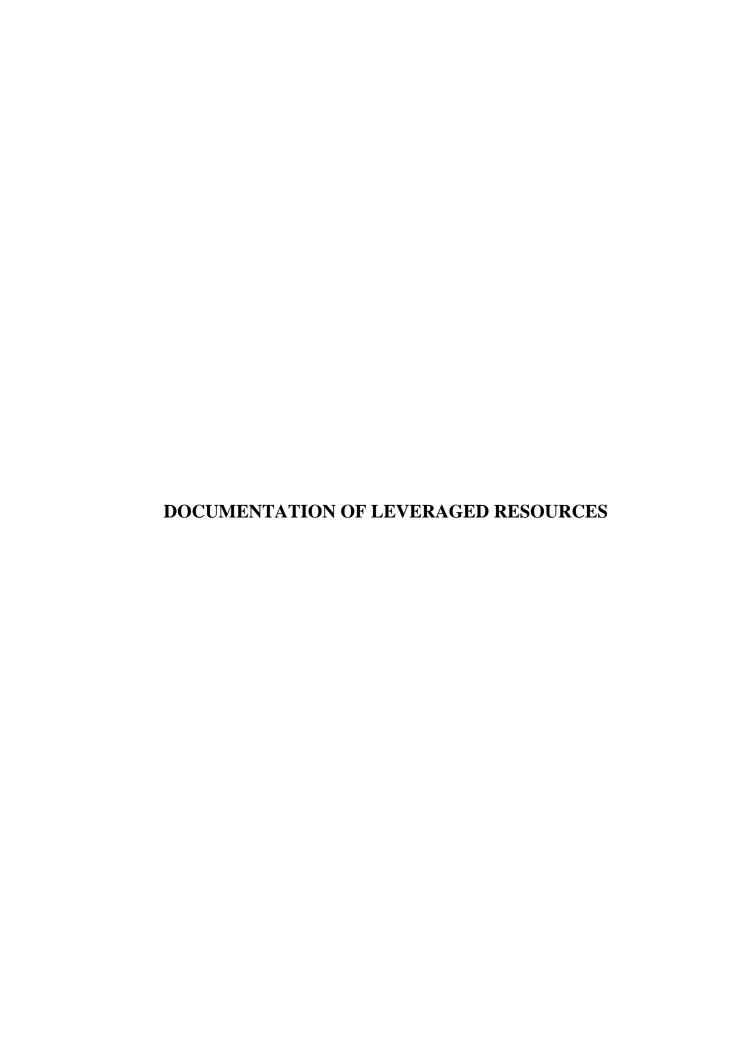
Under the previous grant, CCDEC and the Coalition members conducted 7 public meetings and 12 coalition meetings; identified/prioritized 54 potential brownfield sites; conducted Phase I/II activities at 24 sites; and prepared 7 RAPs. Site assessment information was entered in ACRES. Approximately 130 acres were assessed and currently 6 sites totaling over 120 acres are undergoing remediation/development that will result in approximately 200 jobs created in the warehousing/logistics COD management field. Based on the results of the Phase I ESAs, 6 sites had no recognized environmental conditions (REC) and are being actively marketed by the respective Coalition partner for redevelopment. RAPs prepared for 7 sites identified minimal remediation requirements, such as institutional controls (caps, deed restrictions), that can be utilized for the sites to be returned to active use.

5.d.i.2. Compliance with Grant Requirements

CCDEC is in full compliance will the grant requirements. All grant funds were utilized within the 3-year base period of the grant. The activities under the previous Coalition Assessment grant were conducted in accordance with the grant workplan and approved QAPP. Quarterly grant reports were submitted in a timely manner and relevant data was entered in ACRES. Progress was achieved towards the grant outputs including the # of public meetings, # of Coalition meetings, # of brownfield sites identified, # of Phase I ESAs completed, # of Phase II ESAs completed, # of acres assessed, acreage made ready for reuse, and # of green remediation options identified. Progress was also made toward the grant outcomes including # of COD developments, # of jobs created/retained, # of cleanups completed, and # of acres available for redevelopment. The remaining outcomes, such as # of groceries developed in food deserts, are in progress as sites are marketed to potential developers. CCDEC will continue to track these outcomes beyond the end of the grant.

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL ATTACHMENTS

- Documentation indicating committed leveraged resources
- Letters of Commitment from community organizations
- Letters of Commitment from other governmental partnerships





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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DEBORAH C. STONE

DIRECTOR

69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1900 ● Chicago, Illinois 60602-1304 ● (312) 603-8200 Email: environmentalcontrol@cookcountyil.gov ● www.cookcountyil.gov/environment

November 14, 2017

Jan Pels Regional Brownfield Contact U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region V 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Mail Code SE-7J Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Pels:

The Cook County Department of Environmental Control (CCDEC) is the lead applicant for the South Suburban Coalition Assessment grant focused on the Target Area of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, and Sauk Village. CCDEC is committed to the success of the grant activities, and as part of this commitment, CCDEC will dedicate \$50,000 in county funds for each year of the grant (for a total of \$150,000) to be used to support and supplement Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and remedial action planning activities in the Target Area. The source of the funding is from Cook County's Solid Waste Fund. This fund receives annual revenues from landfills and solid waste transfer stations in suburban Cook County and by ordinance is intended to support environmental-related activities such as Phase I and II ESAs. CCDEC successfully utilized this fund under its previous Coalition Assessment grant received in FY2014 to assess brownfield sites in west suburban Cook County.

Cook County's south suburbs have the highest concentration of brownfield sites in the 7 county metro area. Economic revitalization of the south suburbs is a key focus of Cook County and the assessment of brownfield sites is a critical component of this revitalization. CCDEC and the Coalition partners look forward to working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist with these efforts.

Sincerely,

Deborah Stone, Director

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Cook County Department of Environmental Control



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SEAN M. MORRISON 17th District DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUSAN M. CAMPBELL

DIRECTOR

69 W. Washington St., Suite 2900 @ Chicago, Illinois 60602 @ (312) 603-1000

November 15, 2017

Ms. Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Ms. Stone:

As a partnering entity, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development/Department of Planning and Development (CCBED/CCDPD) strongly supports the application from the Cook County Department of Environmental Control and the other South Suburban Brownfield Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. Our staff has been an integral part of developing this proposal and we will continue to be a leading partner throughout the project during implementation of the grant.

Cook County DPD will play a central role in this Coalition project by:

- Using all development and finance tools utilized by CCDPD to leverage economic
 development on Brownfield project sites. Specific focus on the County's
 Industrial Growth Zone program will mitigate redevelopment barriers and attract
 investment to the South Suburbs by catalyzing economic growth and generating
 long term jobs. This grant funding will be instrumental by assisting with
 environmental assessments and property cleanups that will expedite
 development work in this area. Program assistance includes:
 - Property incentives to provide roughly 50% reduction in tax burden on eligible real estate
 - Low interest loan funds to help finance business expansions (\$15M available)
 - Tax-exempt bonds issuance for manufacturers to lower their cost of capital (\$10M cap)
 - Financial and marketing assistance in IGZs
 - Acquisition of tax delinquent property on behalf of municipalities (additional tax savings)
 - Strategic investments in infrastructure and public improvements through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) up to \$4.4M

- Working with Coalition communities to develop achievable redevelopment plans for brownfield sites that will further community goals, including jobs, better access to transportation services, stormwater management and others.
- Placing a link with information about the project and its community outreach meetings in our newsletters and on our website.
- Using our extensive networks in the South Suburbs for community outreach.

Our primary mission is economic revitalization of the South Suburbs. The County has conducted an extensive study in this area funded through grants from Chicago Community Trust and The MacArthur Foundation. This study details the legacy industries that have left the region's properties riddled with environmental issues and barriers to redevelopment since major economic decline of the area began in the 1970's.

Phase I of the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative provides us with additional rationale and support for focusing development efforts on this area of the County. As we transition to Phase II and III of this initiative, assessing properties in the area through this program would be a key step towards furthering our mission. We look forward to working with our Cook County partners and the other coalition members on this important project.

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Sincerely,

Susan M. Campbell, Director

Department of Planning & Development



October 23, 2017

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Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Forest Preserves of Cook County is pleased to submit this statement of support for the application by the Cook County Department of Environmental Control for a Coalition Brownfield Assessment Grant of \$600,000, along with the Villages of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village.

These communities are bracketed by forest preserves: to the west lie Joe Orr Woods and Woodrow Wilson Woods connected by the Thorn Creek Trail and to the Southeast are the Michael J O'Malley Preserve and Plum Creek Play Meadow. Thorn Creek and its tributaries run through these communities on the west, and Deer Creek and its tributaries flow through the central part of the coalition area. Identifying and creating reuse plans for sites that are prioritized based on health risk to communities, threats to water quality, and potential for economic growth makes sense for these communities.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County, established in 1913, is one of the oldest and largest conservation districts in the county, and has a mission to protect and preserve the nearly 70,000 acres of public land in its care for the benefit of native plants and animals and for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public. These lands offer a multitude of active and recreational activities and provide clean air and water, reduced flooding, and other important eco-system services.

The Forest Preserves is coordinating a strategic land acquisition plan for the Deer Creek corridor and we would be excited to work with you so that resources can be leveraged to meet environmental, as well as other, needs. We are pleased to offer our support to this Coalition project by providing advice and expertise in the planning process for site redevelopment, participating in the planning process for sites that will impact our properties, and assisting with community outreach. Over the three years of the project, it is estimated that we will commit approximately \$2,400 of in-kind match.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County confirms its support for the Cook County Department of Environmental Control's Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant proposal and urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Arnold Randall

General Superintendent



College of Engineering Center for Hazardous Substance Research

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602 October 23, 2017

Subject: Letter of Support and Commitment for FY 187 EPA Coalition Assessment

Grant Proposal Cook County, Illinois

Dear Ms. Stone,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of commitment for ongoing support of Cook County Department of Environmental Control's brownfields activities; and specifically, for your application, as the lead for the South Suburban Coalition Partnership member, for a \$600,000 EPA Coalition Assessment grant. The brownfields assessment grant funding will focus on the coalition member communities, Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, orientated around freight and cargo access. The Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program, at Kansas State University (KSU), will plan to provide support to your proposed outreach and technical assistance needs.

Currently, the TAB Program at KSU has been working with Cook County to conduct a brownfield workshop at the offices of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association on November 2, 2017. In addition, TAB partnered with Cook County during implementation of the recently concluded West Suburban Brownfields Coalition Assessment Project, which resulted in 30 sites being assessed, to assist communities with brownfields strategies and redevelopment planning, technical document reviews, and workshops. TAB plans to continue to provide these services for the proposed coalition assessment activities. We understand that this may be in partnership with area-wide outreach and planning efforts of OAI, Inc. and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for green infrastructure, stormwater management and water quality preservation.

Based on recent years of partnering with Cook County and other entities, we anticipate expending approximately \$5,000 per year of other leveraged effort on workshops and other technical assistance (for a total of \$15,000 during the three-year grant period).

We wish you luck and strongly support your proposal to assess, clean up, and redevelop brownfields in the South Suburbs Coalition Partnership communities and surrounding areas! Please direct any questions to 785-532-0782.

Sincerely,

Maggie J. Weiser

Maggie I. Weism

TAB Coordinator EPA Regions 5 and 7



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 EAST ERIE STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3154

312.751.5600

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David St. Pierre Executive Director

312.751.7900 f: 312.751.7926 david.stpierre@mwrd.org

October 20, 2017

Ms. Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

Subject: Letter of Support - Brownfield Grants

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is the public agency in Cook County delivering wastewater and stormwater service to 5,000,000 residents.

The MWRD strongly supports the application from Cook County and the Villages of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. We believe this project will contribute significantly to the ongoing economic revitalization of our region. As the goals of the project include keeping contaminants that could impair water quality and threaten human health out of the many waterways in the Coalition area, and seeking opportunities to implement green space and green infrastructure for stormwater management in an area that experiences repeatedly flooding, we believe the project could have far reaching positive impacts on these communities.

The MWRD is committed to assisting this project and will actively participate in the planning process especially for sites that may impact waterways or for which there is a green infrastructure reuse potential. Our technical expertise in stormwater management meshes well with this effort and we are happy to offer assistance. The MWRD will also help promote information on public participation opportunities in the Coalition Brownfield project at our Watershed Planning Council meetings in this area and through other means.

This project will assist with the overall goals of economic revitalization of the South Suburbs as well as assisting with management of the severe flooding found in this area. MWRD looks forward to participating. It is estimated that, at a minimum, we will have a senior engineer participate 80 hours over a three year period at an average of \$110,000/year.

The MWRD looks forward to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project. Please contact me at 312-751-7900 if you require further information.

Sincerely,

David St Pierre







November 9, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Southland Human Services Leadership Council supports the application from Cook County along with Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village to the U.S. EPA for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000, to help assess brownfield sites as a step towards redevelopment.

The mission of the Southland Human Services Leadership Council is to create and sustain health and human services excellence and enhance the nature and flow of resources to people in the Southland community. We inform, advocate, and collaborate on behalf of our entire body of members.

We are happy to support public outreach for this effort by distributing fliers, having project representatives come talk at our meetings, and in other ways.

The redevelopment of brownfields in the coalition communities is critically important because environmental degradation has a negative effect on health. Air and water pollution from brownfields is associated with outcomes from asthma to low birth weight to high blood levels. Brownfields are also difficult to redevelop, meaning these communities have fewer jobs, and lower tax base which leads to lesser services for residents.

We look forward to working with the Coalition Communities on this important project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Council's secretary, Ms. Maya Hardy, at (708) 248-7910.

Sincerely,

Bryan Dunlap SHSLC Co-Chair

CEO

Community Service Partners, Inc.

Jay Readey SHSLC Co-Chair Executive Director Neighborscapes









www.oaiinc.org

OAI Headquarters

180 N Wabash Ave. Suite 750 - Chicago, IL 60601 P: 312.528.3500 F: 312.528.3501

OAI Chicago Southland

214 Forest Blvd. - Park Forest, IL 60466 P: 708.283.5020 F: 708.283.5004

October 31, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

OAI, Inc. strongly supports the application from Cook County along with Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

OAI, Inc. is a Chicago-based workforce education, training and job placement organization passionate about preventing violence and alleviating poverty through access to employment. Since 1976, we have worked with high-quality companies, analyzing their talent needs and matching qualified job seekers with their open positions; prioritizing local residents, often with barriers to employment. We help companies find talent they wouldn't otherwise access and introduce job seekers to high-paying career sectors they might not otherwise pursue.

OAI has extensive experience since 1995 with providing **environmental and remediation workforce training** to underserved populations. OAI has been awarded and has managed many millions of dollars in environmental, brownfields, and related environmental job training grants from federal agencies, including over 16 years of consecutive funding from the USEPA *Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants*. OAI was awarded another such EPA grant in the amount of \$196,400 in September 2017 to continue its Chicago environmental workforce training for the coming three years, bringing OAI's total environmental jobs funding for the current year to over \$1 million, which we can leverage for this program.

Because of our long and successful history with environmental and remediation training for underserved populations, OAI is enthusiastic about partnering in this project and working closely with the Coalition. While OAI will assist the Coalition in any way possible, some logical areas present themselves:

- Community outreach, recruitment, and screening
- Job skills training in environmental assessment, remediation, site cleanup, and/or site redevelopment customized to the Coalition's needs
- Job preparedness training, including resume development, interviewing, researching available positions, applying on-line, etc.
- Job placement support services for trainees
- Connecting the coalition with other job training providers as needed

The redevelopment of brownfields in the coalition communities is critically important because environmental degradation has had a deleterious effect on many Cook County communities, as has been documented in a February 2013 USEPA report entitled *Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities: Strategies for Advancing Smart Growth, Environmental Justice, and Equitable Development*. Responsible redevelopment of brownfields can transform environmentally-impaired property into productive assets and bring about improved public health, a cleaner environment, economic growth, increased local employment opportunities, revitalized neighborhoods, increased local tax revenues, and reduced public service demands. Because we believe all of these results will be realized, we urge the awarding of the requested Brownfields Assessment Grant.

If you have any questions about this support letter feel free to contact me at: (312) 528-3555 or mdowling@oaiinc.org.

Sincerely,

Mollie Dowling Executive Director





www.oaiinc.org

OAI Headquarters

180 N Wabash Ave. Suite 750 Chicago, IL 60601 P: 312.528.3500 F: 312.528.3501 **High Bridge**

214 Forest Blvd. Park Forest, IL 60466 P: 708.283.5020 F: 708.283.5004

October 31, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

High Bridge, L3C is the Chicago Southland's premier landscape design, installation and maintenance firm. Our mission focuses on natural restoration and green infrastructure projects while improving residents' lives. We provide jobs for residents in economically-depressed communities where landscape treatments can lessen the effects of frequent flooding and intense rainfall through rain gardens. We are also committed to hiring local individuals and ensuring they benefit from these public and private investments in their communities. Profits are reinvestment to employ more people to do more work for people and the planet.

High Bridge supports the application from Cook County and the other Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

We will work with the South Suburban Brownfield Coalition Project by lending our expertise in green infrastructure planning to assist Coalition communities with planning for site redevelopment that is environmentally productive as well as creating jobs. We also plan to work with Cook County and its chosen contractors on potential hiring of workers who have been part of our organization or come from the local community.

Best of luck on this important project, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mollie Dowling,

Executive Director, OAI, Inc. Founder, High Bridge, L3C



October 20, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

I am writing on behalf of the Center for Neighborhood Technology, in support of the application from Cook County and the Coalition of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a USEPA Coalition Brownfield Assessment grant of \$600,000.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology is an award-winning innovations laboratory for urban sustainability. As the author of Prospering in Place: Linking Jobs, Development and Transit to Spur Chicago's Economy, CNT is committed to helping this project, which will strengthen infill development in the freight rail-rich south suburban area around the Lincoln Highway Corridor, mitigating the severe jobs/housing mismatch found in this part of our metro region.

We will assist by helping to disseminate information for public outreach, as well as by lending our particular expertise in Transit Oriented Development and Rail Oriented Development.

CNT believes strongly that place matters. That is why redevelopment of brownfields in these communities is so critical. Brownfield redevelopment in this area can contribute to slowing sprawl, decreasing harmful emissions from long auto trips, and revitalize communities with a rich history if not rich in financial resources. CNT looks forward to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project.

Sincerely,

Linda Young

Acting Executive Director



October 27, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Calumet Collaborative strongly supports the application from Cook County and the other South Suburban Brownfields Coalition members Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

The Calumet Collaborative is non-profit organization that works in the bi-state Calumet region by focusing attention and resources of diverse stakeholders on priorities and on-the-ground work that integrate community, economic, and environmental values and have regional impact.

We look forward to helping the Coalition in its work to assess brownfields by providing additional tools developed through our Brownfields Working Group. We will promote the project, community outreach meetings and connect partners through our network and beyond.

The Calumet region has a powerful industrial heritage but brownfields left from past industrial operations have limited the potential re-use of land that connects to the many transportation assets that exist in the region. The Calumet Collaborative looks forward to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Coulter

Acting Executive Director



October 18, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the application from Cook County and the other Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. This project will contribute significantly to the ongoing economic revitalization of our region.

As the official destination marketing and management organization for the Chicago Southland our mission is to successfully generate economic growth through promoting our destination to meeting planners, group tour operators, sports and religious planners. Tourism is a powerful economic engine that drives jobs and has an impressive return on investment.

We stand ready to assist the Coalition further by:

- Helping to find space for meetings and workshops for community outreach.
- Using our knowledge of the hospitality and other industries to offer guidance to the coalition communities on potential redevelopment for brownfield sites.

This project will assist with the overall goals of economic revitalization of the South Suburbs. This economic revitalization will assist the south suburban communities by improving the quality of life which is a key element when promoting a destination. Improvement of our infrastructure brings positive change that leads to growth, vitality and demand. A positive inventory is needed throughout the Chicago Southland to remain competitive with regions outside the state of Illinois. We support USEPA funding for this important project.

Sincerely.

Sally Schlesinger, CPA, CDME

Schlesugen

Executive Vice President

Fax: 708-895-8288

Toll Free: 888-895-8233

10/23/2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

Faith in Place strongly supports the application from Cook County and the other Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

Faith in Place is active with numerous faith communities in the South Suburbs, working with them to better care for the Earth. As a network of people of faith, we advocate for clean energy options that reduce air pollution and provide clean energy jobs.

We are willing to help this project move forward by supporting community outreach efforts, as we work in these communities on religious and environmental concerns. We are willing to help find locations in the houses of worship that we work with, for community meetings on the project, and to assist in linking the Coalition members to other community organizations we work with in this area.

This project will assist with the overall goals of economic revitalization of the South Suburbs, helping to provide badly-needed jobs, as well as to address the detrimental health impacts of many decades of industrial activity.

I urge you to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brian J. Sauder

Brold

President

Faith in Place





Office of the President

202 South Halsted Street Chicago Heights, IL 60411-8226 (708) 709-3500 • Fax (708) 709-3774 prairiestate.edu

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Ms. Deborah Stone, Director

Cook County Department of Environmental Control

69 W. Washington, Suite 1900

Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

Prairie State College is pleased to support the application from Cook County and the other Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

Located in Chicago Heights, Illinois, Prairie State College is a two-year community college offering associate degrees and technical and career certificates. The College embraces its diversity and supports community and economic development. Sustainability is a key part of our core vision. Prairie State is part of the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (which sponsors Link & Leverage, a higher education, government, and community based organization partnership for sustainability and resiliency).

The College stands poised to work with the communities of the coalition to remedy the area's brownfields. We have already partnered with the Cook County Department of Environmental Control, for instance by co-sponsoring a workshop for communities on becoming solar ready. We can:

- offer space for Coalition meetings, community outreach or workshops put on as part of the project;
- work with the Coalition communities and interested businesses on meeting job training needs for future redevelopment of brownfield sites;
- place a link with information about the project and its community outreach meetings in our newsletter or on bulletin boards; and
- use our partnerships with other local institutions, businesses and communities to help with community outreach.

The redevelopment of brownfields in the coalition communities is critically important because many times these sites contain hazards that affect community health and safety while also creating roadblocks to community development. This project will assist with the overall goals of economic revitalization of the south suburbs. Prairie State College looks forward to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project.

Sincerely,

Jerri & Clun free Terri L. Winfree, Ph.D.

President







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DIRECTOR

69 W. Washington St., Suite 2900 @ Chicago, Illinois 60602 @ (312) 603-1000

November 15, 2017

Ms. Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Ms. Stone:

As a partnering entity, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development/Department of Planning and Development (CCBED/CCDPD) strongly supports the application from the Cook County Department of Environmental Control and the other South Suburban Brownfield Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. Our staff has been an integral part of developing this proposal and we will continue to be a leading partner throughout the project during implementation of the grant.

Cook County DPD will play a central role in this Coalition project by:

- Using all development and finance tools utilized by CCDPD to leverage economic
 development on Brownfield project sites. Specific focus on the County's
 Industrial Growth Zone program will mitigate redevelopment barriers and attract
 investment to the South Suburbs by catalyzing economic growth and generating
 long term jobs. This grant funding will be instrumental by assisting with
 environmental assessments and property cleanups that will expedite
 development work in this area. Program assistance includes:
 - Property incentives to provide roughly 50% reduction in tax burden on eligible real estate
 - Low interest loan funds to help finance business expansions (\$15M available)
 - Tax-exempt bonds issuance for manufacturers to lower their cost of capital (\$10M cap)
 - Financial and marketing assistance in IGZs
 - Acquisition of tax delinquent property on behalf of municipalities (additional tax savings)
 - Strategic investments in infrastructure and public improvements through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) up to \$4.4M

- Working with Coalition communities to develop achievable redevelopment plans for brownfield sites that will further community goals, including jobs, better access to transportation services, stormwater management and others.
- Placing a link with information about the project and its community outreach meetings in our newsletters and on our website.
- Using our extensive networks in the South Suburbs for community outreach.

Our primary mission is economic revitalization of the South Suburbs. The County has conducted an extensive study in this area funded through grants from Chicago Community Trust and The MacArthur Foundation. This study details the legacy industries that have left the region's properties riddled with environmental issues and barriers to redevelopment since major economic decline of the area began in the 1970's.

Phase I of the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative provides us with additional rationale and support for focusing development efforts on this area of the County. As we transition to Phase II and III of this initiative, assessing properties in the area through this program would be a key step towards furthering our mission. We look forward to working with our Cook County partners and the other coalition members on this important project.

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Sincerely,

Susan M. Campbell, Director

Department of Planning & Development



TONI PRECKWINKLE

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Cook County Board
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TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER

15th District

JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI 16th District

SEAN M. MORRISON 17th District Department of Transportation and Highways

John Yonan, P.E.

Superintendent

69 West Washington Street, 24th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602-3007 • (312) 603-1601

November 9, 2017

Ms. Deborah Stone Director Cook County Department of Environmental Control 69 West Washington Street Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

As a partnering entity, the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH) strongly supports the application from the Cook County Department of Environmental Control and the other South Suburban Brownfield Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. DOTH regularly works with all these partners and is currently leading a planning study in the Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor (LHLC) to determine rail-served economic development opportunities in these same three communities.

As a result of recommendations in *Connecting Cook County*, the long-range transportation plan adopted by the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 2016, DOTH is looking at the transportation network holistically, including its connections to land use, economic development, and quality of life for local communities. The Department has supported numerous local infrastructure improvements in south Cook County, both through investment of DOTH revenue toward infrastructure improvements and in-kind assistance via engineering expertise or grant writing to secure federal or state funds. Together, the Department's efforts are helping to place vacant or underutilized land back into productive use.

We will play a central role in this Coalition project by:

- Supporting infrastructure improvements in south Cook County, including road improvements, rail improvements, viaduct clearances, highway-rail grade crossing improvements, and green and gray infrastructure for stormwater management. DOTH has currently programmed over \$797 million in improvements between FY 2017-2022, which includes over \$166 million in outside funding.
- Providing in-kind assistance for these infrastructure improvements via grant writing and engineering experience. DOTH has been successful in securing federal and state transportation funds in support of local improvements.

- Investing in Cook County highway facilities in the study areas, as well as strategically contributing Department funds to complete funding packages for projects off the County highway network. DOTH launched the competitive Invest in Cook program in 2017, funding \$7.2 million in awards in its first round.
- Liaising with other transportation agencies and assisting with community outreach. DOTH routinely works with federal, state, regional, and local agencies, as well as the civic and private sectors, to understand transportation needs from many perspectives, as well as advance projects expeditiously.
- Identifying key sites for redevelopment through our LHLC study. Scheduled for completion in Summer 2018, this project will result in detailed analyses of sites with economic development opportunity, environmental remediation needs, transportation investment needs to support brownfield revitalization.

Through direct experience, we understand the impact transportation investments can have on local economic development. DOTH has led first- and last-mile truck routing improvements on municipal facilities in west and south Cook County, including:

- 131st Street in Alsip
- 134th Street in Riverdale
- 151st Street in Phoenix
- 156th Street in Harvey
- Center Avenue in Harvey
- 167th Street in Harvey

These projects leveraged funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Economic Development Program (EDP), – which provides a dollar-for-dollar match of other funds, up to a maximum of \$2 million, and requires a job retention or job creation commitment from a local business - federal Surface Transportation Program funding, and federal Community Development Block Grant funding, adding up to nearly \$17 million in grant awards. The cost of each project varies, but generally range from \$1 million to \$10 million.

The County's investment in 131st Street led to the retention of Alsip Mini Mill and the revitalization of an industrial site that had been vacant for five years. The 151st Street project helped keep Sterling Lumber in Cook County, revitalized a brownfield in Phoenix that had been vacant for almost a decade, and increased employment in the area. The investment in 156th Street retained LB Steel, catalyzing the assembly of numerous small brownfield sites for redevelopment in Harvey.

We are just beginning new truck route projects through the inaugural round of our Invest in Cook competitive funding program. These projects include the reconstruction Butler Drive in Chicago and Division Street in Blue Island. These projects will improve access to existing industrial facilities, and improve regional mobility by enhancing multimodal connections to maritime facilities and key railyards. Further, we have actively partnered with other agencies in the

development of regionally significant transportation projects, including the Vollmer Road viaduct improvement under the CN Railway in south Cook County and the 75th Corridor Improvement Program of rail projects on the south side of Chicago. These projects will further bolster freight movements within the County, reinforcing it as an attractive location for various forms of industrial development.

Economic revitalization of the South Suburbs is a key focus of DOTH. This Coalition Brownfield Assessment Grant would be a key step towards furthering that mission. DOTH looks forward to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (312) 603-1601 or John. Yonan@cookcountyil.gov.

Very truly yours,

John Yonan, P.E. Superintendent

Department of Transportation and Highways

Cook County, Illinois





Terry Mason, MD, Chief Operating Officer

Tom Precisionale

John Jay Shamman, MD

Brotts Meintein
M. Hill Hammer I.

Commissioner Jenny Butler
L. a. Challen at
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Mary Directol, RN, MPH
RX Estrada
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Laula P. Somerowa Granzalez, PhD

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October 23, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Cook County Department of Public Health strongly supports the application from the Cook County Department of Environmental Control (CCDEC) and the Coalition of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

The Cook County Department of Public Health is the state certified public health department serving the suburban areas of Cook County. Over the years, our department has worked in the Coalition communities on numerous public health issues, including environmental health, communicable disease control, maternal and child health, lead poisoning mitigation, and chronic disease prevention. The work proposed in this application would complement our ongoing efforts to improve the overall health of these communities.

We are committed to continuing to work with the CCDEC to help move this project forward by providing public health data, assisting with community outreach efforts, linking information on our website, and by sharing community health knowledge and expertise. We already have partnerships with the CCDEC, for instance, to reach low income populations that we serve with information on how to reduce energy use and save on their utility bills.

The cleanup of brownfields in the Coalition communities is critical to mitigation of many of the health issues we see there every day. We look forward to being a strong partner in this effort.

Terry Mason, MD

Sincerely

Chief Operating Officer



October 23, 2017

TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT

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Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Forest Preserves of Cook County is pleased to submit this statement of support for the application by the Cook County Department of Environmental Control for a Coalition Brownfield Assessment Grant of \$600,000, along with the Villages of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village.

These communities are bracketed by forest preserves: to the west lie Joe Orr Woods and Woodrow Wilson Woods connected by the Thorn Creek Trail and to the Southeast are the Michael J O'Malley Preserve and Plum Creek Play Meadow. Thorn Creek and its tributaries run through these communities on the west, and Deer Creek and its tributaries flow through the central part of the coalition area. Identifying and creating reuse plans for sites that are prioritized based on health risk to communities, threats to water quality, and potential for economic growth makes sense for these communities.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County, established in 1913, is one of the oldest and largest conservation districts in the county, and has a mission to protect and preserve the nearly 70,000 acres of public land in its care for the benefit of native plants and animals and for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public. These lands offer a multitude of active and recreational activities and provide clean air and water, reduced flooding, and other important eco-system services.

The Forest Preserves is coordinating a strategic land acquisition plan for the Deer Creek corridor and we would be excited to work with you so that resources can be leveraged to meet environmental, as well as other, needs. We are pleased to offer our support to this Coalition project by providing advice and expertise in the planning process for site redevelopment, participating in the planning process for sites that will impact our properties, and assisting with community outreach. Over the three years of the project, it is estimated that we will commit approximately \$2,400 of in-kind match.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County confirms its support for the Cook County Department of Environmental Control's Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant proposal and urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Arnold Randall

General Superintendent



October 23, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

This letter is to confirm that the Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) is in full support of South Suburban Brownfield Coalition's application for \$600,000 for a Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant for work in Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village.

The CCLBA was formed by ordinance of Cook County in 2013 to address the large inventory of vacant residential, industrial and commercial properties in Cook County. CCLBA acquires, holds, and transfers interest in real property to: promote redevelopment and reuse of vacant, abandoned, foreclosed or tax-delinquent properties; support targeted efforts to stabilize neighborhoods; stimulate residential, commercial and industrial development- all in ways that are consistent with goals and priorities established by local government partners and other community stakeholders.

As a supporter of the development and programmatic work of Cook County Department of Environmental Control, CCLBA is excited to be a South Suburban Brownfield Coalition partner. South Suburban Brownfield Coalition aligns with CCLBA's mission to facilitate brownfield redevelopment, generate jobs, and promote sustainable communities. This is similar in scope to the work of the West Suburban Brownfield Coalition.

As part of the West Suburban Brownfield Coalition Assessment (funded with a USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant from 2014-2017), the CCLBA acquired title to three properties assessed under that grant in Bellwood, which have been redeveloped into productive uses and created 30 jobs. I look forward to continuing an existing partnership with the Cook County Department of Environmental Control with the important work proposed for the South Suburban Brownfield Coalition.

If there are any questions regarding this letter of support, please feel free to contact me at 312-603-8020 or at rob@cookcountylandbank.org.

Sincerely,

Robert Rose, Executive Director Cook County Land Bank Authority

69 WEST WASHINGTON | SUITE 2860 | CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60602 | TEL 312 603-0200 | FAX 312 603-9939/9930

KARIN M. NORINGTON—REAVES, CEO

October 31, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership supports the application from Cook County and the other Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000.

The Partnership is the designated Local Workforce Investment Agency for Chicago and Cook County. As such, it oversees workforce development for local businesses and workers through universally accessible, information-driven, one-stop center systems and a network of delegate agencies and training providers. Services for job seekers include individualized career planning, occupational training and job placement.

Brownfields in the coalition communities are a blight, a public health threat, and a significant barrier to redevelopment both because of the costs of assessment and cleanup, and because of uncertainties about the current conditions and future costs. We strongly support the assessment of brownfield sites in these communities because the assessment and cleanup work itself entails jobs, as well as the potential for new jobs once the sites are redeveloped.

As the agency that oversees federal workforce funds, the Partnership is committed to helping the Coalition by:

- Connecting the coalition to job training partners that can screen and train employees for openings with contractors doing site assessment and cleanup work.
- Providing access to a pool of potential employees, drawing on local residents of these communities.
- Working with prospective businesses who may be attracted to redevelop the sites, to link them
 with tailored and comprehensive workforce development services.

If you have any questions about this support letter feel free to contact me at 312-603-0223.

Sincerely.

Karin M. Norington-Reaves Chief Executive Officer

Kein M. Vprington Keaner



233 South Wacker Drive Suite 800 Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 www.cmap.illinois.gov

October 23, 2017

Via e-mail:

deborah.stone@cookcountyil.gov

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Director Stone:

On behalf of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), I submit this letter in support of the Cook County Department of Environmental Control for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000, in partnership with Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village.

CMAP is the official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will. CMAP developed and now guides the implementation of GO TO 2040, metropolitan Chicago's first comprehensive regional plan in over a century. This grant application is consistent with GO TO 2040, which calls for reinvestment in our region's former industrial communities.

CMAP is committed to helping the project move forward. Our agency can assist with community outreach, for instance by promoting information through our Weekly Update e-newsletter that goes to over 10,000 subscribers, as well as through our social media outlets. CMAP also has the potential to further assist Coalition communities through our Local Technical Assistance program, which provides assistance to local governments to implement GO TO 2040 through local planning activities. CMAP has already invested significant resources in the South Suburbs, and is committed to continue to assist this part of our region moving forward.

This project help accomplish the overall goals of economic revitalization of the South Suburbs. CMAP supports the selection of this project for program funding. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Board Members

Gerald Bennett, Chair
Rita Athas
Frank Beal
Matthew Brolley
Franco Coladipietro
Janel Forde
Elliott Hartstein
Al Larson
Andrew Madigan
John Noak
Martin Oberman
Rick Reinbold
Carolyn Schofield
Peter Silvestri
Matthew Walsh

Non-voting Members

Sean McCarthy Leanne Redden Justine Sydello

Executive Director Joseph C. Szabo

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Szabo Executive Director



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 EAST ERIE STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3154

312.751.5600

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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David St. Pierre Executive Director

312.751.7900 f: 312.751.7926 david.stpierre@mwrd.org

October 20, 2017

Ms. Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

Subject: Letter of Support - Brownfield Grants

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is the public agency in Cook County delivering wastewater and stormwater service to 5,000,000 residents.

The MWRD strongly supports the application from Cook County and the Villages of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. We believe this project will contribute significantly to the ongoing economic revitalization of our region. As the goals of the project include keeping contaminants that could impair water quality and threaten human health out of the many waterways in the Coalition area, and seeking opportunities to implement green space and green infrastructure for stormwater management in an area that experiences repeatedly flooding, we believe the project could have far reaching positive impacts on these communities.

The MWRD is committed to assisting this project and will actively participate in the planning process especially for sites that may impact waterways or for which there is a green infrastructure reuse potential. Our technical expertise in stormwater management meshes well with this effort and we are happy to offer assistance. The MWRD will also help promote information on public participation opportunities in the Coalition Brownfield project at our Watershed Planning Council meetings in this area and through other means.

This project will assist with the overall goals of economic revitalization of the South Suburbs as well as assisting with management of the severe flooding found in this area. MWRD looks forward to participating. It is estimated that, at a minimum, we will have a senior engineer participate 80 hours over a three year period at an average of \$110,000/year.

The MWRD looks forward to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project. Please contact me at 312-751-7900 if you require further information.

Sincerely,

David St Pierre



October 27, 2017

Alsip Beecher Blue Island Burnham Calumet City Calumet Park Chicago Heights

Country Club Hills Crestwood Crete Dixmoor Dolton

East Hazel Crest Flossmoor Ford Heights Glenwood Harvey

Hazel Crest Homewood Lansing Lynwood

Markham Matteson Midlothian

Mokena Monee

Oak Forest Olympia Fields Orland Hills

Orland Park Park Forest

Peotone Phoenix Posen

Richton Park Riverdale Robbins

Sauk Village South Chicago Heights South Holland

Steger Thornton Tinley Park University Park Worth

Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Deborah Stone, Director

Dear Director Stone:

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) strongly supports the application from Cook County and the other Coalition members of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights and Sauk Village, for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. As the Council of Government (COG) representing 44 municipalities in Chicago's Southland (including the Coalition members) we believe this project will contribute significantly to the ongoing economic revitalization of our region.

SSMMA is happy to have supported and provided our meeting space for a Brownfields Workshop put on by TAB KSU, our partner Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, and the Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control. We stand ready to assist the Coalition further by:

- Leveraging our economic development staff to assist with all aspects of the grant, such as the identification and screening of sites to be investigated and their readiness for anticipated use.
- Through our developer network, advertising brownfield sites that are ready to be returned to active use.
- Offering space for meetings and additional workshops at our office.
- Putting a link with information about the project and its community outreach meetings in our newsletter and on our website.
- Using our partnerships with other local institutions, businesses and communities to help with community outreach.

This project will assist with the overall goals of economic revitalization of the South Suburbs. SSMMA looks forward to learning of a successful outcome to the Coalition's application and to working with Cook County and the other coalition partners on this important project.

Sincerely,

Kristi DeLaurentiis Executive Director

Unity Schamertis





700 West End Ave. • Chicago Heights, IL 60411 708/754-0525 Fax: 708/754-3940 www.thorncreekbasin.org

Bernadette M. Morrison President - Treasurer

> Francisco Perez Vice President

Raymond C. Robertson Clerk

> Jennifer A. Hindel Executive Director

Lucas J. Streicher Director of Operations

> Norma Cash Finance Director

Jeremy Stubbs Technical Services Director October 25, 2017

Deborah.stone@cookcountyil.gov

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Department of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Ms. Stone:

The Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District (TCBSD) is a unit of local government that provides wastewater treatment to help protect the environment for six communities in the south suburbs, including the City of Chicago Heights. The District supports the application from Cook County and the City of Chicago Heights for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. The grant would assist with the overall goals of removing harmful contaminants and creating economic revitalization of the south suburbs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

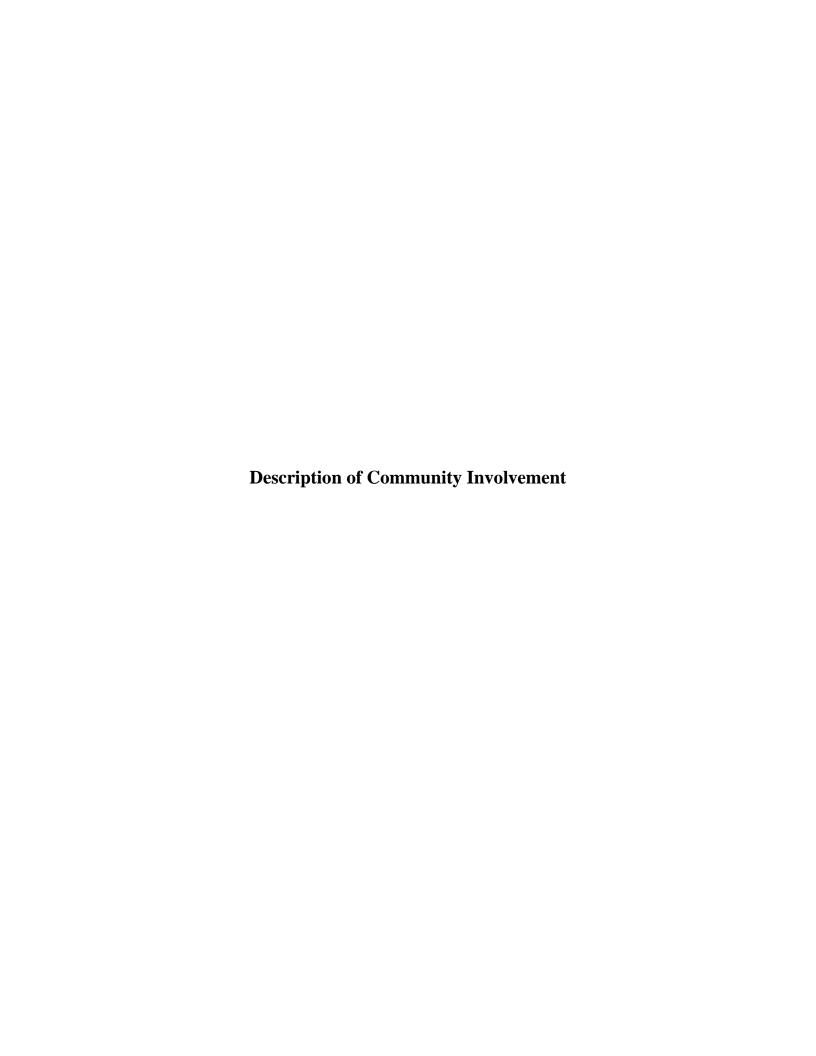
Jennifer Hindel, P.E. Executive Director

THRESHOLD CRITERIA RESPONSES ATTACHMENTS

- Documentation of Applicant Eligibility
- Description of Community Involvement
- Letters of Commitment from Coalition Members

Documentation of Applicant Eligibility

Cook County is a county within the state of Illinois



Community Involvement Plan

CCDEC are the Coalition partners are committed to meaningful and sustained community involvement to ensure the project is successful. Community involvement will be a key component of the grant activities and is discussed in Section 2.a.iii.(b) and 3.a. of the Narrative Proposal. CCDEC will build off successful outreach strategies employed in its prior Assessment grant in West Suburban Cook County: enlisting local civic groups to distribute meeting notices to their local members; presenting at local municipal meetings including monthly city council hearings; hosting a local event such as a picnic to 'meet residents where they are at'; developing custom outreach strategies for specific local stakeholder groups; and coordinating with the local chambers of commerce to host meetings for businesses looking to expand in their area.

As an example of the commitment to community involvement, on November 2, 2017, CCDEC hosted a community brownfields workshop with the Technical Assistance for Brownfields program. This educational workshop included representatives from USEPA, IEPA, and local government agencies presenting a discussion of the history of industrialization and how it led to brownfields, a brief overview of the assessment, remediation, and cleanup processes, and examples of brownfields that have been successfully redeveloped. The workshop was designed to build community capacity to identify possible brownfield opportunities and resources.

Specific community involvement activities to be conducted during the grant period include:

- Meetings
 - Three site selection meetings held with the Coalition members and the public within the first three months of the grant
 - Six biannual public meetings hosted by CCDEC during the grant period to inform the public of the project status and receive input
- Press releases and FAQ sheets prepared by CCDEC to notify and update the public on the grant activities
- Posts to Cook County's website and blog and distribution through County's social media to update the public through social media.
- Articles presented in CCDEC's quarterly e-newsletter, which goes to approximately 4,000 constituents, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, interested individuals, etc.
- Coalition members posting information for their residents on their respective websites.
- Several Partner organizations, including CMAP and the Cook County Department of Public Health posting information on their websites and in their newsletters.
- Collaboration with local organizations, including municipal chambers of commerce and community groups, to notify their members of grant activities



CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS



Office of the Mayor David A. Gonzalez

October 12, 2017

Ms. Deborah Stone
Director and Chief Sustainability Officer
Cook County Department of Environmental Control
69 West Washington Street, Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Subject: Brownfields Assessment Grant (\$600,000)

Dear Director Stone,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. As Mayor for the City of Chicago Heights, we are pleased to be a Coalition member in an application for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. This particular Coalition also includes the Village of Ford Heights and the Village of Sauk Village, and the Cook County Department of Environmental Control. Our representative who will participate in Coalition activities is Mr. Jack P. Hynes, Director of Economic Development.

The benefits of Brownfield assessment in our city will help initiate redevelopment projects that could bring in hundreds of jobs, enhance the livability of Chicago Heights residents and lead to newer investments for an economically sustainable community.

The City of Chicago Heights is committed to undertaking this project and commit to contributing by at least:

- Helping to identify and prioritize eligible sites or providing access to sites.
- Being involved in redevelopment plans for any sites within our community.
- Provide staff time to assisting with carrying out any Brownfield related activity.
- Act as a liaison for obtaining community input.
- Host public meetings.

Director Stone, your time and consideration is much appreciated. If you should have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact myself or Jack Hynes directly. I can be reached via telephone at (708) 756-5315 or e-mail: dgonzalez@chicagoheights.net. Jack can be reached at (312) 286-4337 or via e-mail: jhynes@chicagoheights.net.

Sincerely,

Mayor David A. Gonzalez City of Chicago Heights

VILLAGE OF FORD HEIGHTS

1343 ELLIS AVENUE ♦FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411♦ (708) 758-3131 FAX: (708) 758-9898

MAYOR Annie R, Coulter

VILLAGE CLERK Nyree D. Ford

TRUSTEES
Ben-Ta U. Coulter
Scottie Hatten
Antoina T. McMichales
Steve Simpson
Jonathan Viverette
Jimmie Watson

October 18, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Department of Environmental Control 69 W, Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Letter of Support for the EPA Brownfield Grant

Dear Director Stone:

The Village of Ford Heights is in support of the submittal of the Brownfield Assessment Grant.

As a community that is working hard to attract economic development, projects like the Brownfield Assessments would assist the Village with land re-use, land banking and removal of harmful blight.

We are committed to helping the project move forward and will provide space necessary for meetings and will attend other public hearings when necessary.

We openly support Cook County for identifying communities that need their assistance. Without their support, some hazardous areas in Suburban Cook County would not be able to rectify identified Brownfield sites.

We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,
Anne R. Caillea

Annie R. Coulter, Mayor



21801 Torrence Ave., Sauk Village, IL 60411 - Phone (708) 758-3330 - (708) 758-1634

November 8, 2017

Deborah Stone, Director Cook County Dept. of Environmental Control 69 W. Washington, Suite 1900 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Stone:

The Village of Sauk Village is proud to be a Coalition member in an application for a Coalition Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$600,000. The Coalition includes Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, Sauk Village and the Cook County Department of Environmental Control.

The Village of Sauk Village exemplifies the type of aging, income-eligible and economically stagnant community that could benefit from participating in the USEPA's Brownfields assessment program. The Village has numerous sites that currently sit vacant with no development prospects, mainly due to their status of being potentially environmentally challenged. Redevelopment of these sites would not only promote economic development opportunities and tax revenues, but also rid the neighborhoods of blight and assist the community in envisioning the redevelopment of their neighborhoods and business districts.

It is with great commitment and support that the Village of Sauk Village participates and works hand in hand with Cook County Department of Environmental Control to identify sites, develop plans for redevelopment, promote public awareness and host public meetings to keep the community informed of our efforts. Please accept our letter supporting our partner in rehabilitating these environmentally challenged properties.

Sincerely,

Mayor Derrick Burgess Village of Sauk Village

OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 10/31/2019

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424										
* 1. Type of Submission: Preapplication Application Changed/Corrected Application		New	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): * Other (Specify):							
* 3. Date Received: 11/15/2017	4. Applicant Identifier:									
5a. Federal Entity Ide		5	bb. Federal Award Identifier:							
State Use Only:										
6. Date Received by State: 7. State Application Identifier:										
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:										
* a. Legal Name: Cook County Department of Environmental Control										
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 36-6006541				* c. Organizational DUNS: 1227029420000						
d. Address:										
* Street1: Street2: * City:	eet2:									
County/Parish: * State:	IL: Illinois									
Province: * Country:	USA: UNITED STATES									
•	60602-4052									
e. Organizational U	nit:									
Department Name:				Division Name:						
f. Name and contac	et information of pe	erson to be contacted on ma	atte	rs involving this application:						
Prefix: Middle Name:		* First Name	e:	Kevin						
	nnoes									
Suffix:										
Title: Deputy Dir	rector									
Organizational Affiliation:										
* Telephone Number:	312-603-8214		Fax Number:							
*Email: kevin.schnoes@cookcountyil.gov										

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424										
* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:										
B: County Government										
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:										
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:										
* Other (specify):										
* 10. Name of Federal Agency:										
Environmental Protection Agency										
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:										
66.818										
CFDA Title:										
Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements										
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:										
EPA-OLEM-OBLR-17-07										
* Title:										
FY18 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS										
13. Competition Identification Number:										
Title:										
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):										
Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment										
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:										
South Suburban Cook County Coalition Assessment Grant										
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.										
Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments										

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424											
16. Congressional Districts Of:											
* a. Applicant	3			* b. Program/Project 1-3							
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.											
			Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	/iew Attachment						
17. Proposed Project:											
* a. Start Date: 10	/01/2018		* b. End Date: 09/30/2021								
18. Estimated Funding (\$):											
* a. Federal		600,000.00									
* b. Applicant		0.00									
* c. State		0.00									
* d. Local		0.00									
* e. Other		0.00									
* f. Program Income		0.00									
* g. TOTAL		600,000.00									
* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?											
a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on											
b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.											
c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.											
	_	rederal Debt? (If	"Yes," provide expi	anation in attachment.)							
Yes											
ii 163 , provide 67	tplanation and attach		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	/iew Attachment						
21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001) ** I AGREE ** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.											
Authorized Repres	sentative:										
Prefix:		* Firs	st Name: Deborah								
	Middle Name:										
* Last Name: Sto	ne ————————————————————————————————————	7									
* Title: Director											
* Telephone Number: 312-603-8204 Fax Number:											
* Email: deborah.	stone@cookcounty	il.gov									
* Signature of Authorized Representative: Christopher D Lipman * Date Signed: 11/15/2017											